

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03509 01 OF 02 021321Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13
COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /135 W
-----046176 021528Z /64

R 021155Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8043
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3509

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PGOV, SU
SUBJECT: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY SPEECH TO NATION REFLECTS UNEASINESS

SUMMARY: BEGINNING HIS MONTHLY "FACE THE NATION" SPEECH WITH
REFERENCE TO FLOOD DISASTERS IN NORTHERN, CENTRAL AND EASTERN
SUDAN, NIMEIRI BLAMED SEVERE SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE IN KHARTOUM
AND ELSEWHERE ON PANIC, BLACK MARKETEERS, MISMANAGEMENT BY
KHARTOUM PROVINCE COMMISSIONER AND, LATELY RAILROAD WASHOUTS.
HE DWELT ON THREAT TO HIS AND SUDAN'S SECURITY FROM COM-
MUNISTS AND DESCRIBED LINKS BETWEEN SOVIET AND MIDDLE EAST
STRATEGY AND INTERNAL THREAT. NIMEIRI HINTED AT SUBVERSION
WHICH APPARENTLY OCCURRED DURING OAU CONFERENCE IN KHARTOUM.
NIMEIRI MIXED REMARKS ON LABOR WITH ACCUSATIONS OF
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KHARTO 03509 01 OF 02 021321Z

PRO-SOVIET AGITATION BUT EXPLAINED LEGAL PROCEDURES
WHICH SHOULD HAVE BEEN USED BY UNIONS INSTEAD OF
STRIKES AT CRUCIAL TIMES. HE BLAMED MINISTER OF
FINANCE FOR BUNGLING WHILE MINISTER WAS ABSENT ON
OFFICIAL TRIP. HE PRAISED SUDANESE FOR MOST SUCCESSFUL
OAU CONFERENCE AND DENIED RUMORS THAT SUDAN HAD NOT
PROFITED FROM EXPENSIVE BUT WELL-DONE AFFAIR. HE REFERRED

TO STANDARD OF LIVING PROBLEMS WITH VAGUE OPTIMISM.
EMBASSY BELIEVES SPEECH IMPROVED PUBLIC MORALE AS MUCH
AS COULD BE EXPECTED BUT NOTES NIMEIRI CONTINUES
TO IGNORE PROBLEMS OF SOUTH AT LEAST AS SERIOUS AS FLOOD
DISASTERS. NIMEIRI'S ANTI-COMMUNIST AND ANTI-SOVIET ARGUMENTS
HAVE REAPPEARED AFTER SHORT ABSENCE INDUCED BY NEED TO BE
MODERATE DURING OAU PRESENCE. HIS HINTS OF SECURITY THREATS
ARE PERHAPS EXAGGERATED TO CREATE SYMPATHY FOR HIS PROBLEMS
AND DISTRACT AUDIENCE FROM LACK OF SOLUTIONS TO ECONOMIC WOES.
END SUMMARY

1. PRESIDENT NIMEIRI BEGAN MONTHLY "FACE THE NATION"
SPEECH ON RADIO/TV JULY 31 BY ADMITTING HE WAS "HESITANT"
TO MAKE SPEECH BECAUSE OF RECENT NATURAL DISASTERS IN
CENTRAL, NORTHERN AND EASTERN SUDAN. FIRST PROBLEM NIMEIRI
ADDRESSED WAS SHORTAGE OF GASOLINE. IN DEFENSIVE AND
ACCUSATORY TONE USED THROUGHOUT SPEECH, NIMEIRI SAID GASOLINE
SHORTAGE BEGAN WHEN NEWSPAPER REPORTED BRIEF STRIKE OF
RAILROAD WORKERS JUNE 20. "TRADITIONAL FEVER OF PANIC
AND HOARDING" FOR FEAR OF NON-DELIVERY OF IMPORTS FROM
PORT SUDAN TO KHARTOUM CAUSED SHORTAGES OF PETROLEUM
AND THIS WAS MADE WORSE BY BLACK MARKET. SELFISH AUTO
OWNERS PURCHASED LARGE AMOUNTS OF PETROL AND "LORDS OF
BLACK MARKET" SPREAD RUMORS THAT OAU CONFERENCE WOULD
CONSUME UNLIMITED QUANTITIES OF SCARCE GASOLINE. COM-
MISSIONER OF KHARTOUM DID NOT MANAGE TO REGULATE CONSUMPTION
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KHARTO 03509 01 OF 02 021321Z

UNTIL SITUATION DETERIORATED; WHEN RATION CARDS WERE
ISSUED, SHORTAGE SEEMED TO VANISH INSTANTLY. NIMEIRI
ADDED THAT RECENT FLOODS HAD RENEWED GASOLINE SHORTAGES.

2. NIMEIRI REFERRED TO THREAT OF COMMUNISM IN SUDAN
BY RECALLING COMMUNIST COUP ATTEMPT IN JULY 1971. HE SAID
KHARTOUM "WAS AND IS TARGET" FOR VIOLENT IDEOLOGICAL
INVASION. HE POINTED OUT SUDAN ON ALL BORDERS IS VULNERABLE
TO PENETRATION IN FAVOR OF "YOU KNOW WHO." SAME "STRATEGIC
INTERESTS" BEHIND 1971 COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST NIMEIRI ARE
STILL "EAGER, INTERESTED AND ACTIVE" TO GET HIM "BEFORE,
DURING AND AFTER JULY 1978." NIMEIRI SAID HE WAS AWARE
THAT BESIEGING FORCE SURROUNDING SUDAN SINCE 1971 IS TRYING
TO OVERCOME PREVIOUS FAILURES FROM NEIGHBORING BASE WITH
HELP OF ELEMENTS INSIDE COUNTRY. "BUT I WOULD LIKE TO REAFFIRM
HERE THAT NIMEIRI DOES NOT RESEMBLE AL GHASHMI AND WOULD
NEVER RESEMBLE SALIM RUBAYYI ALI. THE SUDAN AS LONG AS I
LIVE WOULD NOT RESEMBLE YEMEN, A VICTIM OF CONTINUED
CONSPIRACY AIMED AT SHAKING ITS STABILITY IN PREPARATION
FOR ITS TURNING INTO A NEW BASE TO BE ADDED TO THE BASES
OF ARMED OPPRESSION IN AFRICA AND THE WORLD. THE SUDANESE
PEOPLE HAVE SEVERAL TIMES REJECTED COMMUNISM AND WOULD

ALWAYS CONTINUE TO DO SO."

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 KHARTO 03509 02 OF 02 031255Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13
COME-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 DOE-15 SOE-02 /135 W
-----073542 031257Z /44/64

R 021155Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8044
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 KHARTOUM 3509

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT PARA. 7.)

3. MOVING TO LABOR UNREST, NIMEIRI OPENED WITH HINT THAT
COMMUNISTS WERE INVOLVED IN AGITATION. HE SAID NEW WAGE
AND JOB EVALUATION SCHEME WAS TO BEGIN JULY 1, 1978.
NIMEIRI LAMENTED FAILURE OF TRADE UNIONS TO FOLLOW LEGALLY
PRESCRIBED PROCEDURES FOR SETTLEMENTS OF DISPUTES. HE
SEEMED PARTICULARLY UPSET AT RECENT PRESSURE TACTICS OF
UNIONS WHO CALLED WORK STOPPAGES AT MOST EMBARRASSING TIMES
AND COMPLAINED OF INCIDENT IN WHICH IMPORTANT MESSAGE WAS
NEGLECTED IN MINISTRY OF FINANCE UNTIL "SITUATION
EXPLODED" - PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO ACCOUNTANTS STRIKE.

4. CONCERNING OAU CONFERENCE, NIMEIRI REPORTED GREAT
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 KHARTO 03509 02 OF 02 031255Z

SUCCESS WHICH SIGNIFIED RECOGNITION OF SUDAN'S STATUS AND EFFECTIVE ROLE ON AFRICAN, ARAB AND WORLD LEVELS. HE COMMENDED ALL SUDANESE AGENCIES. NIMEIRI MENTIONED GREAT SECURITY PROBLEMS WHICH WERE WELL HANDLED BY MILITARY AND SECURITY FORCES SO THAT EVEN PRESIDENT IDI AMIN COULD TOUR OMDURMAN STREETS IN SAFETY. PRAISING HOTELS, AIRPORT, TELECOMMUNICATIONS, SUNA (AT LENGTH) AND TRANSPORTATION AGENCIES, NIMEIRI TOLD LISTENERS THAT HE HAD BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN HELPING OAU ADOPT GENERALLY MODERATE AND USEFUL RESOLUTIONS ON DIFFICULT AFRICAN CONFLICTS.

5. ANSWERING CRITICS, NIMEIRI COMPLAINED ABOUT CRITICISMS AND JOKES SUCH AS CARTOON SHOWING WIFE WHO BLAMES HUSBAND FOR INVITING MANY GUESTS WHILE THERE IS NO SUGAR, MEAT OR GAS IN HOUSE. HE ENLARGED ON SPIRITUAL VALUES AS OPPOSED TO CONCEIT. HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT SAUDI ARABIA AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES PAID "FAR MORE THAN SUFFICIENT" FOR EXPENSES OF CONFERENCE. NIMEIRI CLAIMED CONFERENCE PROBABLY MADE MONEY FOR SUDAN. ONE INTERESTING ITEM WAS CLAIM THAT HUNDREDS OF MERCEDES AND PEUGEOTS OBTAINED FOR CONFERENCE WOULD BE MAINTAINED IN RESERVE BY SUDANGOV FOR SIMILAR OCCASIONS.

6. NIMEIRI CLOSED SPEECH WITH DISCUSSION OF PRESSING PROBLEMS OF DAY-TO-DAY LIFE AND ADDITIONAL RECENT NATURAL CATASTROPHES. HE SAID "WE HAVE TO REMEMBER THAT OUR VAST TERRITORY AND OUR LIMITED OUTLETS RENDER ANY EFFORT WE EXERT RATHER FRUITLESS." HE ALSO SAID SUDAN RAILWAYS WILL ALWAYS BE NECESSARY EVEN IF SUBSTITUTE LINK TO PORT SUDAN IS FOUND (MEANING, PROBABLY, PIPELINE WHICH HAS NOT HELPED AT ALL WITH GASOLINE SCARCITY). AS HE LIKES TO DO, NIMEIRI PRAISED ARMED FORCES FOR THEIR EFFORTS IN HELPING COUNTRY OVERCOME PROBLEMS ESPECIALLY IN THIS INSTANCE OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 KHARTO 03509 02 OF 02 031255Z

NATURAL DISASTERS. HE CONCLUDED WITH COMMENDATION OF DECEASED MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS WHO DIED SUDDENLY IN LONDON LAST SATURDAY.

7. COMMENT: SPEECH WAS UNUSUALLY ACCUSATORY AND AT SAME TIME TYPICALLY DEFENSIVE AND IN PLACES FATALISTIC ABOUT TOUGH PROBLEMS FACED BY SUDANESE PUBLIC. SOME SUDANESE CRITICIZE NIMEIRI FOR ATTEMPTING TO SHIFT BLAME FROM HIMSELF, WHILE OTHERS - PERHAPS MAJORITY - REACT FAVORABLY TO BLUNT, TOUGH TALK. NIMEIRI DID NOT MENTION SOUTHERN REGION WHICH CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE SERIOUS FOOD, FUEL AND POWER SHORTAGES, ACCORDING REPORTS REACHING KHARTOUM,

NIMEIRI'S SPEECH WAS DEVOID OF SPECIFIC REMEDIES FOR MOST
PROMINENT PUBLIC CONCERNS: INFLATION, LOW WAGES, SCARCITIES
OF FLOUR, SUGAR AND OTHER FOOD, ABSENCE OF GASOLINE IN KHAR-
TOUM (WHICH HAS CAUSED CANCELLATIONS OF PUBLIC EVENTS),
AND INCREASINGLY FREQUENT POWER OUTAGES. WHILE VAGUE ABOUT
THESE PROBLEMS, NIMEIRI ATTEMPTED TO APPEAL TO SECURITY
THREATS AND NATIONAL GLORY, HOPING, PERHAPS, TO UNITE PEOPLE
BY APPEAL TO PATRIOTISM. REPORTS OF SECURITY INCIDENTS IN
KHARTOUM DURING OAU (REPORTED BY DAO), ARE THOUGHT TO BE
CAUSED MORE BY OMNIPRESENT SECURITY FORCES THAN BY TRUE
DANGER. SUDANESE SHOWED NO SIGN OF WORRY AT TIME.
BOGOSIAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GASOLINE, SPEECHES, FLOODS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 02 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO03509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780316-0355
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t197808108/aaaadmrk.tel
Line Count: 236
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 850f8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1563956
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NIMEIRI'S MONTHLY SPEECH TO NATION REFLECTS UNEASINESS SUMMARY: BEGINNING HIS MONTHLY \"FACE THE NATION\" SPEECH WITH
TAGS: PDEV, PINT, PGOV, SU, (NIMEIRI, JAFAR)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/850f8b58-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014